

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/555,246
Response to Restriction Requirement and
Election of Species Requirement dated April 16, 2008
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2008

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

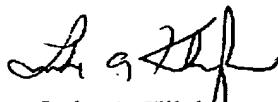
At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner is requesting that the applicant elect from one of two groups as follows:

- I. Claims 1-10 and 15-19, drawn to an agent for protecting cardiac damage, wherein the agent contains an effective amount of at least one protease inhibitor and is administered intravenously or orally.
- II. Claims 11-14, drawn to a method for treating arrhythmia, cardiac desmoplasia, and/or heart-failure.

To be responsive, the applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 11-14, drawn to a method for treating arrhythmia, cardiac desmoplasia, and/or heart-failure. Further, regarding the election of species requirement, the applicants elect heart-failure as the single and specific disease to be treated; Suc-Val-pro-L-Phe^P(OPh)₂ for the protease inhibitor; and carboxymethyl cellulose for the carrier. Of the elected invention, claims 11-14 read on the elected species.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

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Atty. Docket No. 3190-084
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
400 Holiday Court, Suite 102
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel.: (540) 428-1701
Fax: (540) 428-1720